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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 25 NO. 3 MAR. 1989

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Dec '88	Jan '89
Labor Force	231,810	227,127
Employment	215,622	208,960
Unemployment	16,188	18,167
Rate (Raw)	7.0	8.0
Rate (S.A.)	7.2	6.7
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.99	$15.05
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.5	41.6
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.3	5.4
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.96	$13.07
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.8	42.8
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	120.5	121.1
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.2	+4.7

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

— ACCRA Cost of Living Comparisons
— Wyoming Counties–A Ten Year Look

FEBRUARY U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT AT 5.1 PERCENT

The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate for February declined to 5.1 percent, which is the lowest it has been since 1974. Since last fall, the rate has been running in the 5.3 to 5.4 percent range. January's rate was 5.4 percent. That compares to 5.8 percent in January, 1988.

In January, civilian employment increased by 700,000, seasonally adjusted, to a level of 116.7 million. Most monthly increases during 1988 were much smaller. There were 6.7 million unemployed nationally during January.

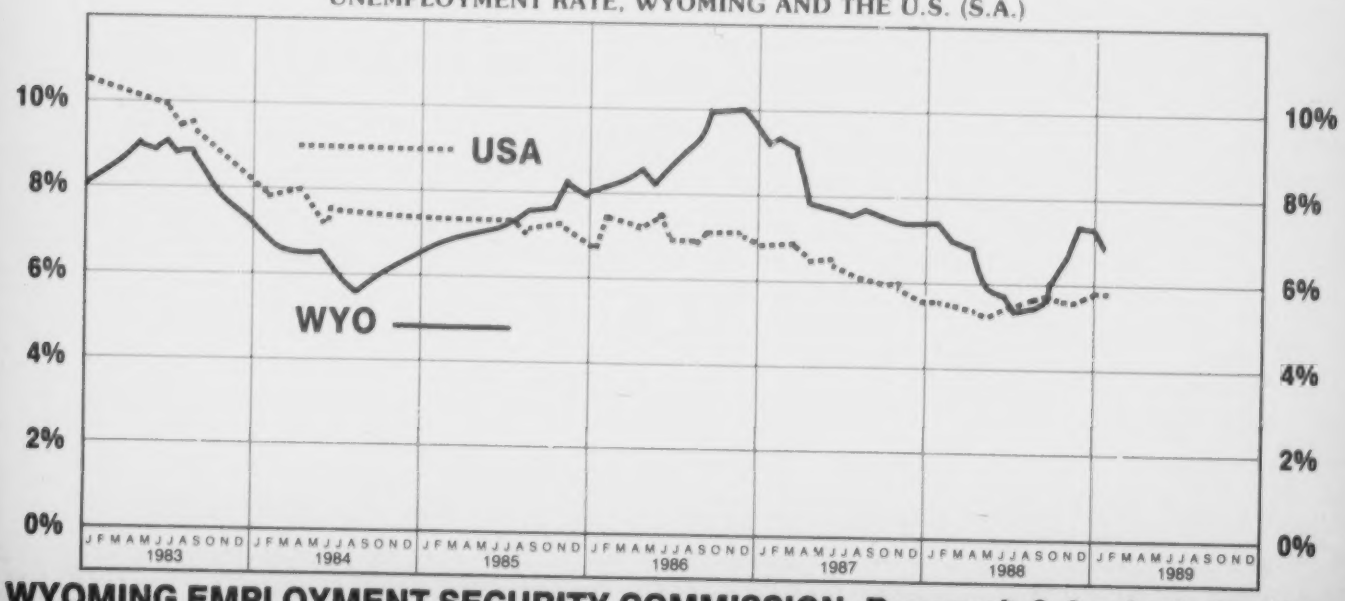
The nation's civilian labor force increased by 870,000, seasonally adjusted, to 123.4 million, bringing the labor force participation rate to an unprecedented 66.5 percent.

GOODS AND SERVICES EMPLOYMENT UP

Employment grew in both the goods and service-producing sectors, with the biggest gains occurring in construction and retail trade.

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing posted its fourth consecutive monthly

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section
Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

gain, adding 45,000 jobs. With the unusually warm weather around most of the country, employment in construction from December to January posted an unusual gain of 100,000 jobs, seasonally adjusted. Among the service-producing industries, retail trade showed the largest month-to-month increase, with an additional 135,000 jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT UP IN JANUARY IN WYOMING

Wyoming's unemployment was up seasonally in January to 8.0 percent, with 18,200 jobless.The seasonally unadjusted rate compares to 7.0 percent in December, 1988. And 8.9 percent in January,1988. However, January's seasonally adjusted rate was 6.7 percent--down from 7.2 percent posted in December and 7.4 percent one year ago.

STATE'S LABOR FORCE EDGES DOWNWARD

The State's labor force showed a seasonal decline in January of about 4,700 from the previous month. This compares with 228,900 in January, 1988. The number of employed workers, 209,000 was down by 3.1 percent from December but was near last year's level of 208,600.

Fourteen of the state's 23 counties experienced year-to-year labor force declines. There were employment gains in retail trade, manufacturing, and federal government. Other industries were at or below last year's levels, with construction continuing to reflect the largest annual decline.

As usual, Teton and Albany counties enjoyed the lowest unemployment rates, with 3.3 and 5.2 percent respectively. Fremont and Lincoln counties had the highest unemployment rates, with 11.9 percent each.

FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING AS OF OCTOBER 1987

The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently released the occupational staffing patterns of federal civilian employment in Wyoming as of October, 1987. Federal civilian employment accounts for approximately 3.3 percent of the state's total employment.

Most of the federal civilian employment in Wyoming is divided between: professional, paraprofessional, and technical occupations (39.3 percent); and clerical and administrative support (29.4 percent). The remaining occupational groups: production, construction, operating, maintenance, and material handling (16.9 percent); managerial and administrative occupations (5.2 percent); service (4.5 percent); agricultural, forestry, fishing and related occupations (4.1 percent); and sales occupations (0.6 percent) account for less than a third of the total employment in federal civilian employment.

The top employing federal civilian occupations in Wyoming were: traffic, shipping, and receiving clerks (367); and mail carriers (353); followed by foresters and conservation scientists (236); and registered nurses (184).

The occupations with the largest gain in growth were: engineering, mathematical, and natural science managers (+15); biological scientists (+14); biology, agriculture, and food technicians and technologists, except health (+12); mobile heavy equipment mechanics, except engines (+11); and construction and building inspectors (+11).

The occupations with the largest declines were: forestry and conservation workers (−54); foresters and conservation scientists (−19); and traffic, shipping, and receiving clerks (−19).

Total employment in all occupations in the federal civilian workplace grew by 117 over-the-year, from 7,152 to 7,269. Because of Wyoming's vast amounts of federally owned land, federal employment in the Cowboy state will continue to play a major role in its development.

TOP EMPLOYING FEDERAL CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS IN WYOMING AS OF OCTOBER 1987[1]

Rank	1987 Employment	1986 Employment	Employment Change
1. Traffic, Shipping, and Receiving Clerks	367	386	−19
2. Mail Carriers, Postal Service	353	351	+2
3. Foresters and Conservation Scientists	236	255	−19
4. Registered Nurse	184	177	+7
5. Postmasters and Mail Superintendents	176	180	−4
6. Typists	166	166	0
7. Clerks, Postal Service	161	166	−5
8. General Office Clerks	158	152	+6
9. Forest and Conservation Workers	157	211	−54
10. Biological Scientists	123	109	+14

FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION GROUP WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING AS OF OCTOBER 1987[1]

	1987 Employment	1986 Employment	Employment Change
Total Employment All Occupations	7,269	7,152	+117
Managerial and Administrative Occupations	377	363	+14
Professional, Paraprofessional, and Technical	2,859	2,767	+92
Sales and Related Occupations	43	40	+3
Clerical and Administrative Support	2,136	2,141	−5
Service Occupations	331	327	+4
Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishing Occupations	295	346	−51
Production, Construction, Operating, Maintenance and Material Handling	1,228	1,168	+60

[1] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Program

ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS FOURTH QUARTER 1988

	ALL ITEMS	GROCERIES	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSPORT	HEALTH CARE	MISC
Component Index Weights	100%	17%	22%	11%	13%	7%	20%
U. S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wyoming Cities							
Casper	89.6	98.1	75.2	73.2	91.7	103.3	97.0
Laramie	101.9	104.8	107.1	77.9	112.5	108.8	99.2
Sheridan	96.0	104.4	81.0	96.8	101.2	98.2	99.1
Neighboring Cities							
Great Falls, MT	92.6	106.1	80.6	89.5	98.0	101.2	102.5
Denver, CO	105.3	91.3	127.2	91.0	105.7	122.2	98.2
Omaha, NE	92.6	91.8	91.4	88.1	104.4	88.8	91.5
Rapid City, SD	99.7	107.3	101.9	100.6	96.8	102.5	94.2
Salt Lake City, UT	98.8	94.2	88.8	93.7	104.8	107.5	105.9
Pocatello, ID	90.3	94.5	73.9	73.0	99.8	99.1	100.1
Highest U. S. City	160.3 Nassau County NY	135.0 Ketchikan AK	260.1 Nassau County NY	181.3 Nassau County NY	136.8 Ketchikan AK	209.8 Juneau AK	134.3 Ketchikan AK
Lowest U. S. City	84.3 Kennett MO	88.4 Ames IA	71.2 Gadsden AL	62.8 Seattle WA	78.7 Nevada MO	71.1 Lufkin TX	83.1 Somerset KY

*Source: ACCRA, American Chamber of Commerce Research Association

PARK, WYOMING
1976-1986

Park County's 1986 population of 24,900 ranked eighth in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Park had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $13,002. This PCPI ranked seventh in the state, and was 102 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 89 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Park's PCPI of $7,283 ranked eighth in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past ten years was 6.0 percent, less than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Park had a total personal income (TPI) of $323,347*. This TPI ranked eighth in the state and accounted for 5.0 percent of the state total. In 1976, Park's TPI of $142,340* ranked sixth in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past ten years was 8.6 percent, less than the state average (9.0 percent) and less than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Park increased from $111,721* in 1976 to $212,681* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 6.6 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were services, which accounted for 16.9 percent of earnings; state and local government, 16.4 percent; mining, 16.0 percent; and construction, 13.0 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were services, with 15.4 percent of earnings; construction, 12.6 percent; retail trade, 12.1 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least five percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was retail trade (10.6 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 5.2 percent; the fastest was state and local government, which increased at an average annual rate of 11.0 percent.

PLATTE, WYOMING
1976-1986

Platte County's 1986 population of 9,900 ranked 17th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Platte had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $10,101. This PCPI ranked 22nd in the state, and was 79 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 69 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Platte's PCPI of $5,799 ranked 18th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past ten years was 5.7 percent, less than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Platte had a total personal income (TPI) of $99,948*. This TPI ranked 17th in the state and accounted for 1.5 percent of the state total. In 1976, Platte's TPI of $44,424* ranked 17th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past ten years was 8.4 percent, less than the state average (9.0 percent) and less than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Platte increased from $33,472* in 1976 to $65,749* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 7.0 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were transportation and public utilities, which accounted for approximately 40 percent of earnings; state and local government, 18.9 percent of earnings; and services, approximately 10 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were mining, with 15.2 percent of earnings; state and local government, 14.1 percent; retail trade, 13.8 percent; and transportation and public utilities, 11.9 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least five percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was retail trade (9.9 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 3.5 percent; the fastest was transportation and public utilities, which increased at an average annual rate of approximately 20 percent.

*All income estimates with the exception of PCPI are in thousands of dollars.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100)
ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
January 1989	121.1	122.0	120.7	123.8	115.3	111.1	143.8
Annual % Change	4.7	5.4	3.9	4.8	4.4	3.7	7.0

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JAN 1989[1]	DEC 1988[1]	JAN 1988[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	227,127	231,810	228,860	- 2.0%	- 0.8%
Unemployment	18,167	16,188	20,279	12.2%	- 10.4%
Employed Labor Force	208,960	215,622	208,581	- 3.1%	0.2%
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	166,100	172,800	164,043	- 3.9%	1.3%
b. Agriculture[3]	9,163	9,751	8,473	- 6.0%	8.1%
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	8.0% 6.7%*	7.0% 7.2%*	8.9% 7.4%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	6.0% 5.4%*	5.0% 5.3%*	6.3% 5.8%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.2%	2.5%	3.5%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 626.08	$ 652.07	$ 628.13	- 4.0%	- 0.3%
Average Weekly Hours	41.6	43.5	43.2	- 4.4%	- 3.7%
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 15.05	$ 14.99	$ 14.54	0.4%	3.5%
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	31,361	20,957	28,642	49.6%	9.5%
a. Initial	4,363	3,569	4,626	22.2%	- 5.7%
Weeks Compensated	21,175	14,723	21,066	43.8%	0.5%
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 3,345,429	$ 2,286,506	$ 3,329,177	46.3%	0.5%
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 157.30	$ 154.52	$ 157.69	1.8%	- 0.2%
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 559.40	$ 554.69	$ 537.62	0.8%	4.1%
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	42.8	42.1	0.0%	1.7%
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.07	$ 12.96	$ 12.77	0.8%	2.3%
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84 = 100	121.1	120.5	115.7	0.5%	4.7%
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84 = 100	110.3	109.0	104.6	1.2%	5.4%
Food and Beverage 1982-84 = 100	122.0	120.6	115.7	1.2%	5.4%

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JAN 1989	DEC 1988	JAN 1988	%CHANGE DEC-JAN	%CHANGE JAN-JAN	JAN 1989	DEC 1988	JAN 1988	JAN 1989	DEC 1988	JAN 1988
Statewide	227,127	231,810	228,860	- 2.0	- 0.8	18,167	16,188	20,279	8.0	7.0	8.9
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									6.7	7.2	7.4
Albany	14,353	15,036	15,078	- 4.5	- 4.8	751	661	824	5.2	4.4	5.5
Big Horn	4,968	5,026	4,672	- 1.2	6.3	394	361	449	7.9	7.2	9.6
Campbell	14,875	14,963	15,245	- 0.6	- 2.4	1,427	1,076	1,255	9.6	7.2	8.2
Carbon	7,061	7,078	7,508	- 0.2	- 6.0	704	631	810	10.0	8.9	10.8
Converse	5,389	5,865	5,406	- 8.1	- 0.3	583	465	578	10.8	7.9	10.7
Crook	2,750	2,772	2,883	- 0.8	- 4.6	247	180	288	9.0	6.5	10.0
Fremont	16,475	16,368	15,791	0.7	4.3	1,957	1,627	1,779	11.9	9.9	11.3
Goshen	5,467	6,035	5,896	- 9.4	- 7.3	313	335	645	5.7	5.6	10.9
Hot Springs	2,721	2,871	2,865	- 5.2	- 5.0	151	181	199	5.5	6.3	6.9
Johnson	3,388	3,354	3,276	1.0	3.4	276	211	278	8.1	6.3	8.5
Laramie	36,038	36,493	35,963	- 1.2	0.2	2,316	2,081	2,622	6.4	5.7	7.3
Lincoln	5,420	5,569	5,857	- 2.7	- 7.5	647	575	801	11.9	10.3	13.7
Natrona	30,624	31,302	31,005	- 2.2	- 1.2	2,476	2,222	2,846	8.1	7.1	9.2
Niobrara	1,171	1,233	1,434	- 5.0	- 18.3	83	99	142	7.1	8.0	9.9
Park	12,695	12,845	12,347	- 1.2	2.8	923	726	1,054	7.3	5.7	8.5
Platte	4,444	4,510	4,173	- 1.5	6.5	347	392	408	7.8	8.7	9.8
Sheridan	12,754	12,993	12,040	- 1.8	5.9	774	768	974	6.1	5.9	8.1
Sublette	2,428	2,547	2,567	- 4.7	- 5.4	225	192	307	9.3	7.5	12.0
Sweetwater	18,153	18,655	18,888	- 2.7	- 3.9	1,651	1,569	1,966	9.1	8.4	10.4
Teton	9,105	9,116	8,770	- 0.1	3.8	298	374	466	3.3	4.1	5.3
Uinta	9,100	9,293	9,429	- 2.1	- 3.5	989	903	1,011	10.9	9.7	10.7
Washakie	4,306	4,347	4,435	- 0.9	2.9	323	278	329	7.5	6.4	7.4
Weston	3,442	3,540	3,332	- 2.8	3.3	311	280	249	9.0	7.9	7.5
United States									6.0	5.0	6.3
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.4	5.3	5.8

*The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition The 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JAN 1989[2]	DEC 1988[3]	JAN 1988	DEC 1988	JAN 1988
	Total	Total	Total	to JAN 1989	to JAN 1989
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	174.6	177.9	174.0	- 1.9%	0.3%
Manufacturing	8.5	8.5	8.3	0.0%	2.4%
Durable Goods	3.8	3.8	3.6	0.0%	5.6%
Nondurable Goods	4.7	4.7	4.5	0.0%	4.4%
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0%	0.0%
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	166.1	169.4	165.7	- 2.0%	0.2%
Mining	17.4	17.6	17.5	- 1.1%	- 0.6%
Contract Construction	6.5	7.3	7.2	-11.0%	- 9.7%
Transportation & Public Utilities	12.7	12.9	12.7	- 1.6%	0.0%
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0%	5.3%
Transportation except Railroads	4.8	5.0	4.7	- 4.0%	2.1%
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	5.9	5.9	6.1	0.0%	- 3.3%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	39.2	40.3	39.0	- 2.7%	0.5%
Wholesale Trade	6.6	6.6	6.7	0.0%	- 1.5%
Retail Trade	32.6	33.7	32.3	- 3.3%	0.9%
Food Stores	4.9	5.0	4.8	- 2.0%	2.1%
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.1	5.2	5.1	- 1.9%	0.0%
Eating & Drinking Places	11.9	12.3	12.0	- 3.3%	- 0.8%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.2	7.2	7.2	0.0%	0.0%
Services	31.1	31.3	31.0	- 0.6%	0.3%
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0%	0.0%
Medical & Other Health Services	8.0	7.9	7.7	1.3%	3.9%
Government	52.0	52.8	51.1	- 1.5%	1.8%
Federal Government	8.0	8.0	7.4	0.0%	8.1%
State & Local Government	44.0	44.8	43.7	- 1.8%	0.7%
State Government	13.0	13.3	13.0	0.0%	2.3%
Local Government	30.7	31.5	30.7	- 2.5%	0.0%

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	FEB 1989[2]	JAN 1989[3]	FEB 1988	JAN 1989	FEB 1988
	Total	Total	Total	to FEB 1989	to FEB 1989
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.5	26.8	25.9	- 1.1%	2.3%
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0%	7.7%
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0%	0.0%
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.3	0 3	0.4	0.0%	-25.0%
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	25.1	25.4	24.6	- 1.2%	2.0%
Mining	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0%	3.9%
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0%	4.2%
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0%	0.0%
Contract Construction	1.1	1.2	1.1	- 8.3%	0.0%
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0%	0.0%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.1	8.2	7.8	- 1.2%	3.9%
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.4	2.3	- 4.2%	0.0%
Retail Trade	5.8	5.8	5.5	0.0%	5.5%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0%	0.0%
Services	5.1	5.2	5.2	- 1.9%	- 1.9%
Government	5.0	5.0	4.8	0.0%	4.2%
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0%	0.0%
State & Local Government	4.4	4.4	4.2	0.0%	4.8%
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.0	30.2	29.5	- 0.7%	1.7%
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0%	0.0%
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.9	29.1	28.4	- 0.7%	1.8%
Contract Construction	1.7	1.8	1.6	- 5.6%	6.3%
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0%	4.2%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.9	7.1	7.0	- 2.8%	- 1.4%
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0%	0.0%
Retail Trade	6.2	6.4	6.3	- 3.1%	- 1.6%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0%	0.0%
Services	5.8	5.7	5.6	1.8%	3.6%
Government	10.1	10.1	9.9	0.0%	2.0%
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0%	0.0%
State & Local Government	7.4	7.4	7.2	0.0%	2.8%

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.